

Title: An Ancient Journey

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Chapter 1, Hajimari

In the beginning, the heavens and the earth were one. The sky was of angry black clouds and the sea was nothing more than a seething, murky swamp. Life as we know it did not exist. Then one day the clouds began to swirl and grow, thunder crashed and a terrible rain began to fall. It rained night and day for weeks and months, as if it had done so forever. At last the rain stopped, and the heavens and the earth had separated. From the waters and the mud the gods began to appear, like young shoots of grass springing forth from the east. This is how the world began.

Chapter 2, Sozo - The Birth of a Land

The last of the gods to rise up from the chaos were Izanagi and the goddess Izanami. From the Bridge of Rainbows in Takamagahara, far above where the other gods live, they stirred the sea with a spear. When they withdrew the spear, the drops of mud that fell from it created a most beautiful group of islands.

Izanagi and Izanami went to live in the land, and were married. There, Izanami gave birth to many gods including those of the wind, the sea, the mountains and the earth.

### Chapter 3, Koi - Love and The Death of Izanami

The last god to be born was the god of fire, after which Izanami died. Her death caused her son Mikoto, the god of the night, terrible pain and grief. At last his father, Izanagi, disturbed at his son's weakness, expelled him from the land of the gods. After much wandering, Mikoto, found himself in a village terrorized by the Eight-Headed Dragon and where the beautiful maiden Kushinadahime lived. It is here that Mikoto first discovered love.

### Chapter 4, Orochi - The Eight-Headed Dragon

The Dragon was a terrible creature with eyes as red as Chinese lanterns. It had eight giant heads and tails long enough to span eight mountains and valleys. The monster dragon had already destroyed the village and devoured Kushinadahime's seven sisters, and it was feared he would soon return to claim the fair maiden. Using all of his cunning and strength Mikoto defeated the monster in a long and brutal battle.

### Chapter 5, Nageki - Sorrow in a World of

## Darkness

After Mikoto was thrown out of the land of the gods, his sister Hikaru, goddess of the sun, took pity on him and invited him to come live with her in Takamagahara. Mikoto was happy to do so, but his mischief soon caused Hikaru much grief. Hikaru fell into great despair and went to hide in the Celestial Rock Cave, plunging the world into total darkness. For this, Mikoto was thrown out of Takamagahara.

## Chapter 6, Matsuri - The Festival

Mikoto prayed and prayed to his father Izanzgi to get Hikaru to come out from the cave. Meanwhile, some of the other gods gathered around the cave to sing and dance in a happy and joyous festival. Hikaru, thinking it strange that people were holding a festival in a dark and cold world, opened the stone gate before the cave to see what was happening. Just then Tajikarao, the god of strength, pushed away the stone and pulled Hikaru from the cave. The festival had been nothing but a trick.

## Chapter 7, Reimei - The New Dawn

As Hikaru came out from the cave, her light shone brilliantly in Takamagahara and throughout all the lands. Flowers began to bloom, birds began to sing and peace returned. With Hikaru's blessing, Mikoto and Kushinadahime were

married and lived happily ever after. It was the beginning of a new dawn in Yamato (Japan).  
Message of Sound

I send a Message of Sound  
Towards the sky  
Engulfing empty space  
Souring far beyond grasp  
High above mountain tops  
Beyond ocean waves  
Stretching to reach the Andes  
And lightly touching Nepal  
Watch as the sounds flow  
Listen as you feel the wind blow  
Nature is colored with romance  
Unfolding a drama day by day  
Plants breathe a rhythm  
Insects play their melody  
Light flies as wind cries  
Now catch the sound . . .  
. feel the light  
By feeling things which are with life  
Innocents respond to the delicate sigh  
Of the world, weaving their own dreams  
Dreams which spread throughout the world  
People begin to sing harmonies of love, wordless  
This is a beginning  
Connecting the dream  
To the color of your breathless heart  
Peace and tranquility, you need only to sing  
It is for you.

### The Great Spirit

All living things come Face to face with the Great Spirit  
And the Great Spirit dwells  
Within all living things  
Tree  
Flower

Water

Wind

    All things

At times the Great

Spirit is severe

At times the Great

Spirit is soothing

Encompassing all life

Everyplace the Great

Spirit dwells

Is the source of a gentle

crystalline light

    And within that light

we become One

Floating as if in our

mother's warm body

    Living together as

children

Of the earth

Without time

Without end..

THE MESSENGER

One came upon him not  
too late

Just in time to meditate.

Immersed in angelic  
harmonies

Of the spheres.

Realizing this Heaven and  
Earth

Must be shared

With the souls of  
spiritual children  
everywhere

MAGICAL MEETING PLACE

The World Came to me, I  
greeted the World

And the World allowed me  
to feel its pulse

Likey to a manifestation  
of fluttering butterflies,  
Some would land and  
linger

To be caressed in their  
full beauty

And then released

Unharmed to continue  
their Sacred Journey.

Our purpose fulfilled...  
for now.

“Whatever joy there is  
in this world all comes  
from desiring others to  
be happy, and whatever  
suffering there is in this  
world all comes from  
desiring myself to be

happy.” (Shantideva.  
Buddhist Monk at Nalanda  
University in the 7th/8th  
century)